

PLATE XXIV.—THE BLACK POPLAR AT BURY

THE poplar may be classed among the aquatic trees, though it will grow ex-  
paratively dry. There are many species of the Poplar, the chief of which are  
trembling, or aspen. Of these, the Black Poplar is the most scarce in England,  
Cheshire and Suffolk, than in any other counties; and the accompanying speci-  
may probably challenge competition, both in size and beauty, with any other indivi-  
dom. It stands near the old monastic bridge, which, with the little river Lark, the  
graceful branches of the Poplar in its waters, forms an interesting picture, that  
of the traveller, as he enters the town by the road from Norwich.

The Poplar may be regarded in every respect as a classical tree. It was l-  
ancients; and is celebrated by Homer, Virgil, and Ovid. The latter speaks of th  
of Phaeton into Poplars; and the fiction seems to wear almost the appearance  
those trees that still flourish on the banks of the Po in Italy, in the vicinity of t  
the ambitious charioteer is said to have been precipitated by Jupiter. The Popla  
aquatic tribe, copiously exudes the moisture which it imbibes, insomuch that, in  
like that of the Willow, is additionally grateful from the drops of water that  
refreshing coolness of a summer shower; and which, to a poetical imagination, li  
picture of the tears of Phaeton's sisters for his loss, completing the beauty of the  
morphosis.

The height of this tree is ninety feet, and its circumference, at a yard from  
risos forty-five feet, with but little diminution in size, when it divides into a prof  
solid contents, by accurate measurement, are five hundred and fifty-one feet.

PLATE XXV.—THE COWTHORPE

THIS gigantic and venerable tree stands at the extremity of the village of  
Yorkshire; in a retired field, sheltered on one side by the ancient church belongi  
by a farm-house; the rural occupations of which exactly accord with the char  
arms are extended towards it, with a peculiar air of rustic vigour, retained even in  
whose toil-worn limbs still give evidence of the strength which enabled him to acqu  
youth. It is mentioned by the late Doctor Hunter, in his edition of Evelyn's  
passage respecting the extraordinary size of an Oak in Sheffield Park. "Neit  
mentioned by Mr. Evelyn, bear any proportion to one now growing at Cowthorpe  
estate belonging to the Right Hon. Lady Stourton. The dimensions are almost  
of the surface, it measures sixteen yards, and close by the ground twenty-six y  
ruinous state (1776) is almost eighty-five feet, and its principal limb extends  
Throughout the whole tree, the foliage is extremely thin, so that the anatomy o  
distinctly seen in the height of summer. When compared to this, all other trees  
—Book III. page 500.

This description so nearly answers to the present state of the tree, that it  
any considerable deprivation since the above period. In girth, indeed, it is inferi  
the Oak in Saley Forest; but altogether it is a noble and imposing ruin, on which  
entering into the wish suggested to an ingenious writer by the sight of a similar  
in the following lines:

"When the huge trunk whose bare and forked arms	Returning from his swelter
Pierced the mid sky, now prone, shall bud no more,	To tend the new-mown gra
Still let the massy ruin, like the bones	Along the western slope of
Of some majestic hero be preserved	Shall stop to tell his listen
Unviolated and revered—	She stretched around her thi
Whilst the gray father of the vale, at eve,	And measure out the space